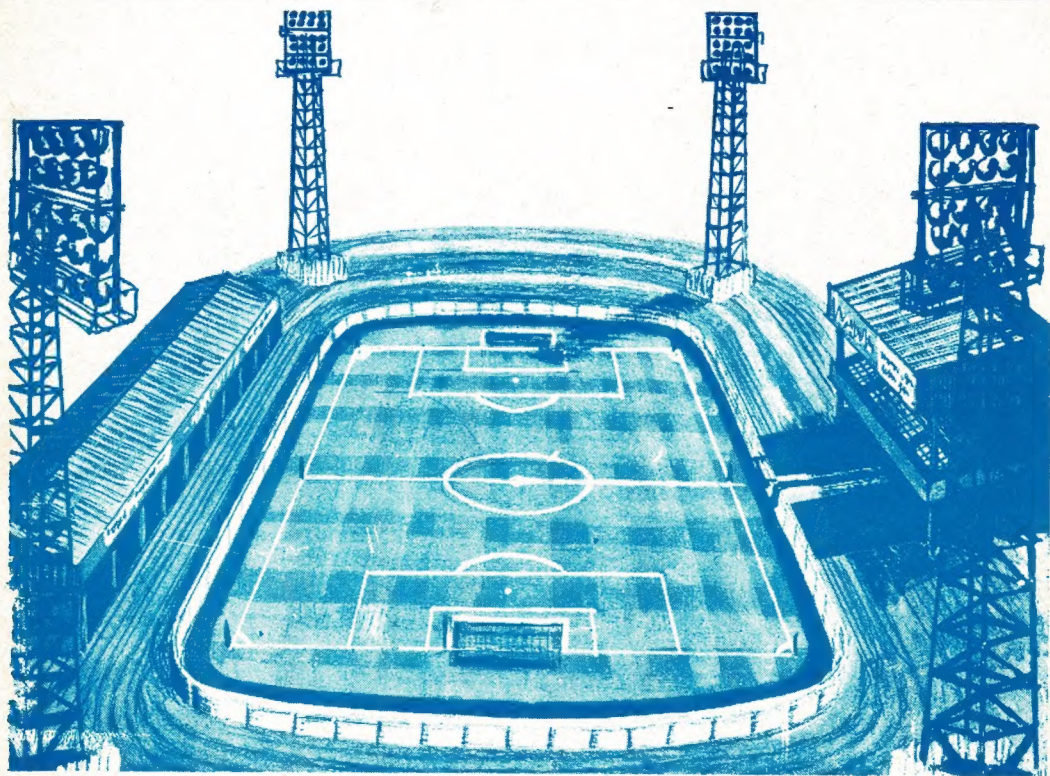


ATHLETIC

WIGAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME — 15p



FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4

v.

DARLINGTON

SATURDAY, 28th APRIL, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

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OUR VISITORS

DARLINGTON F.C. was formed in 1882 and played in local football competitions under the Durham Association and an amateur organisation prior to its entry into the Northern League about 1889.

Darlington was one of the original entries into the F.A. Amateur Cup in 1893, along with Reading, Swindon, Ipswich, Gillingham, Shrewsbury, Middlesbrough and Tottenham Hotspur, all of whom are now Football League clubs. Darlington became a full member of the Football Association in 1886, and in 1891-92 was registered as a limited company.

Its successes in county football were many, but in 1908 it engaged professional players, joined the Northern League and established a reputation when, in 1910, it beat Sheffield Utd. away and Bradford at home before losing to Swindon in the F.A. Cup.

During the first war Darlington fostered several teams connected with works organisations in the town and raised substantial sums for charity.

In 1919-20 it surprised everybody by beating Sheffield Wednesday in a replayed F.A. Cup-tie, and in 1921 it finished championship winners of the North Eastern League.

1921 saw the club as an original member of the 3rd Division North.

Darlington made a good start in its League career, being 2nd, 9th and 6th in the tables of 1922-23-24, before in 1925 it headed the Northern section and so achieved its earlier ambition of reaching Division 2. The higher sphere was, however, too much for Darlington, and, after two seasons, they had to return to Division 3(N). Since then its progress has been fluctuating.

Their ground "The Feethams" was secured in 1918-19, it is attached to the town's cricket ground.

The Wigan Athletic Club welcome the directors, officials and players of Darlington F.C. for the first visit to Springfield to play against the Latics. They have, however, been visitors to Wigan before when the now defunct Wigan Boro was in existence.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

LANCASHIRE LEAGUE

Wigan Athletic Reserves v. Manchester City 'A'

MONDAY, 30th APRIL, 1979 — Kick-off 7-0 p.m.

Wigan Athletic Reserves v. Everton 'A'

THURSDAY, 3rd MAY, 1979 — Kick-off 7-0 p.m.

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FROM THE MANAGER'S DESK

This afternoon we welcome to Springfield Park, Darlington F.C., for our final home league match of the season. Our corresponding game at Darlington was a particularly exciting match which ended in a 1-1 draw. I felt, however, Darlington were a good side.

Today both sides still need the points, so it should be a particularly exciting encounter.

Thanks due to Supporters

On behalf of all the players, the back room staff and myself, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking each and everyone of you for the tremendous support you have given us this season, both in quality and quantity. Particularly exciting has been our away support where on a number of occasions we have outnumbered the home support.

Summing up Season 1978-79

With four matches still to go, I still feel we can achieve 3rd Division status with 4 wins from 4 matches. This, however, is a tall order and indeed it could be that we could gain 8 points and still lose out. The ironical fact is that last season promotion could have been gained with 54 points.

Tremendous credit is due to our players, who, after a poor start, have really set the town alight and have achieved some really wonderful results. I don't suppose in our wildest dreams that come the final home match of season, we would still have a chance of promotion. But thanks to the efforts of our players we are in this position.

On behalf of Kenny Banks and myself we would like to thank each and everyone of our players for a really tremendous and exciting first season in League football.

I would also like to place on record my thanks to Fred Eyre and Dave Brooks for their very successful season, and also to our Second team players, who have done very well.

Finally, I would like to record my appreciation of the first class support and backing I have received from the Chairman and his very able Board of Directors.

I trust this has been the first of many successful seasons in League football for Wigan Athletic.

Once again, many thanks to our really wonderful set of supporters.

Enjoy today's match.

I. McNEILL.

DIVISION FOUR — LEADING POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Grimsby	43	26	8	9	77	42	60
Reading	42	22	13	7	70	35	57
Barnsley	39	21	11	7	67	35	53
Aldershot	42	19	15	8	60	43	53
Wimbledon	38	21	9	8	68	39	51
WIGAN ATH.	42	20	11	11	58	43	51
Portsmouth	41	19	11	11	60	42	49
Newport	43	19	9	15	61	53	47
Huddersfield	40	15	10	15	50	46	40
Torquay	41	17	6	18	51	61	40
Stockport	42	14	11	17	58	56	39
Hereford	40	14	11	15	48	48	39
York City	38	14	11	13	41	45	39
Port Vale	41	13	12	16	54	61	38
Scunthorpe	41	14	10	17	45	55	38
Bournemouth	43	13	11	19	44	43	37

EDITORIAL

Perhaps we have been lax this season in writing about our Reserve team, but our first season in the Football League has created extra interest and obviously has commanded the topic of conversation. It was also inevitable that the first team, in this its first season in league football would attract more than the average following away from home, thereby, one would think, affecting the attendance at Reserve games, but this has not been so, as the gates for Lancashire League matches have been far greater than they were the last time we were members of this league. So obviously there has

been quite an amount of interest in the Second team.

Under the management of Fred Eyre and David Brooks they have had quite a successful season and will possibly finish their fixtures in the top four. Up to and including 13th April 1979, they have scored 81 goals as follows:

Tony Quinn	32,	D. Brownbill	2,
A. Crompton	14,	Bill Gerard	1,
J. Wilkie	11,	G. Kirkwood	1,
G. Buckley	7,	A. Greenhalgh	1,
M. Worswick	3,	N. Hart	1,
B. Freeman	2,	G. McAlister	1,
B. Cunliffe	2,	Own goals	3.

First Team appearances 1978-79 (up to 21st April, 1979)

PLAYER	LEAGUE		LEAGUE CUP		F.A. CUP		TOTAL		GOALS
		Sub.		Sub.		Sub.		Sub.	
John Brown	38	—	3	—	2	—	43	—	—
Derek Brownbill	16	17	—	—	—	2	16	19	5
Frank Corrigan	41	—	3	—	2	—	46	—	6
Alan Crompton	7	13	2	—	—	—	9	13	—
John Curtis	6	—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—
Neil Davids	9	5	1	2	—	—	10	7	—
Dave Fretwell	30	—	—	—	2	—	32	—	—
Geoff Gay	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—
Ian Gillibrand	7	—	3	—	—	—	10	—	—
Tom Gore	42	—	3	—	2	—	47	—	3
Mark Grew	4	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Joe Hinnigan	35	—	2	—	2	—	39	—	5
Peter Houghton	23	3	3	—	2	—	28	3	14
Mickey Moore	36	1	—	—	2	—	38	1	8
Ian Purdie	42	—	3	—	2	—	47	—	10
Ian Seddon	1	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—
Kevin Smart	38	—	1	—	2	—	41	—	1
Nesl Ward	41	—	2	—	2	—	45	—	4
John Wilkie	3	2	3	—	—	—	6	2	—
Mick Worswick	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Jeff Wright	42	—	3	—	2	—	47	—	7

The total number of spectators at home first team games has been 166,636, with an average of 6,943 per game.

The total number of spectators at first team away games has been 120,724, with an average of 5,249 per game. J.H.F.

PEN PICTURES OF DARLINGTON F.C.

MARTIN BURLEIGH (Goalkeeper)

Martin is now in his second spell with the club having originally joined us from Newcastle United in October 1974. Signed by Carlisle in the summer of 1975 after 31 games for us, he re-signed at the beginning of last season. Born Durham.

CLIVE NATRESS (Defender)

The club's utility man and also longest serving player, having joined us in 1972 from Blackpool. He has now made well over 240 appearances for us. Born Durham.

JIMMY COCHRANE (Defender)

A Glaswegian who first came south to join Middlesbrough. Jimmy came to Darlington on loan in Spring 1975 and signed full time that summer. He has now made over 150 appearances in the first team.

GRAHAM HEDLEY (Defender)

DEREK CRAIG (Defender)

Derek has been with the club for three seasons, making over 130 appearances since leaving Newcastle Utd. in 1975, and spending that summer in the United States with San José Earthquakes. Born Ryton, Co. Durham.

JIMMY SEAL (Forward)

Signed from York City in November 1976, and has made over 80 appearances for us. Jimmy has also had experience with Wolves, Walsall and Barnsley. Born Wakefield.

BARRY LYONS (Midfield)

Our most experienced campaigner with almost 500 games to his credit. After starting with Rotherham, he moved to Notts Forest for a £45,000 fee, then to York City,

and two years ago to Feethams. Club captain. Born Shirebrook, nr. Mansfield.

DENNIS WANN (Forward/Midfield)

Commenced his career with Blackpool before moving to York City, from whom he joined us two years ago. Born Blackpool.

JOHN PEACHEY (Striker)

RON FERGUSON (Forward)

Ron joined Sheffield Wednesday straight from school and spent three years at Hillsborough. After loan periods with Scunthorpe and ourselves, he signed full-time in the summer of 1976. Born Accrington.

ALAN WALSH (Forward)

DAVID CROSSON (Defender/Midfield)

Another ex-Newcastle United player who joined the club three years ago, after making several First Division appearances—mainly at full-back. He has appeared over 100 times for the club. Born Bishop Auckland.

PHIL OWERS (Goalkeeper)

TOM PATERSON (Forward)

JOHN STONE (Defender/Midfield)

PHIL TAYLOR (Forward)

ERIC YOUNG (Midfield)

NEIL HAGUE (Defender)

LLOYD MAITLAND (Forward)

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<i>Full Name :</i>	John Curtis.
<i>Birthplace :</i>	Poulton-le-Fylde.
<i>Birthdate :</i>	2nd September, 1954.
<i>Height :</i>	5ft. 8ins.
<i>Weight :</i>	10 st. 4 lbs.
<i>Previous Clubs :</i>	Blackpool, Blackburn, Wigan (on loan).
<i>Married :</i>	Yes, to Marilyn.
<i>Children :</i>	Ryan (4 months).
<i>Car :</i>	Lada 1200 Estate.
<i>Favourite player :</i>	Rainer Bonhoff (Valencia)
<i>Favourite other team :</i>	Arsenal.
<i>Most difficult opponent :</i>	John Robertson (Notts Forest)
<i>Most memorable match :</i>	Blackpool v. Napoli (under 21 cup final, Italy)
<i>Biggest thrill :</i>	Winning above game; becoming England Schoolboys Hurdle Champ.
<i>Biggest disappointment :</i>	Missing promotion with Blackpool to Div 1, '74
<i>Best country visited :</i>	Germany.
<i>Favourite food :</i>	Beef Stroganoff.
<i>Miscellaneous likes :</i>	Going abroad, dining out, D.I.Y., and flying.
<i>Miscellaneous dislikes :</i>	Inconsistent referees, and losing.
<i>Favourite TV shows :</i>	Benny Hill and Ronnie Barker.
<i>Favourite singers :</i>	Donna Summer, Rod Stewart.
<i>Favourite actors :</i>	Laurence Olivier, Jack Nicholson.
<i>Best friend:</i>	A few. Paul Hart and Alan Ainscow are two.
<i>Biggest influence on career :</i>	Harry Potts (now manager of Burnley).
<i>Biggest drag in soccer :</i>	Hooliganism and Boo Boys.
<i>International honours :</i>	None.
<i>Personal ambition :</i>	To eventually own my own business.
<i>Professional ambition :</i>	To play in a Wembley Final.
<i>If not in football, what would you like to be :</i>	A Pilot (Airline)
<i>Which person in the world would you most like to meet :</i>	Laurence Olivier.

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



Today will see the end of our home fixtures in our first Football League season—and what a season it has been. One year ago we were competing with Altrincham for the privilege of being the only Northern Club the Football League would accept for election, with the bottom four clubs. In this we were successful—finishing runners-up to Boston, but their ground facilities were not acceptable.

Having won the fight for the nomination we set about the huge task of canvassing all Football League clubs and within the short period of three weeks the whole of the Directors with Ian McNeill set about this task. On 2nd June 1978, in London, voting took place at the A.G.M. of the Football League and resulted as follows: York City 49, Rochdale 39, Hartlepool 33, Southport 26, Wigan

26, Bath 23. Re-vote: Wigan 29, Southport 20.

The following morning a headline in the National Press read "THE JOKE'S OVER" Wigan voted in at last. I was quoted as saying "this is one of the happiest days in my life." And so it was, both for me and my co-directors who have worked so hard over the years, and a few of us have stood outside the meeting on 34 previous occasions in total despair and disappointment.

The news was received with great jubilation by thousands of Wigan soccer fans. Congratulations and telegrams flooded in from near and far. One of our directors Albert Eckersley was quoted as saying "I am on cloud nine" and he had a two-fold reason, being a town councillor he thought of the good it would do to the town. He said, "Men can come into our fine shopping centre with their wives, and let them shop while they go to the match." It's the biggest thing that has happened to Wigan for many years.

Over 300 volunteers helped on the ground last year and there is much to do yet. Please contact Mr. Alan Muir or Mr. Albert Eckersley if you wish to help.

Finally, to wind up a terrific season may I offer hearty congratulations to our captain and centre-back Noel Ward on being named in the Irish squad for International honours. We sincerely hope you get a place in the team Noel.

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FOOTBALL LEAGUE — DIVISION 4
SATURDAY, 28th APRIL, 1979 — Kick-off 3-0 p.m.

LINE-UP

Wigan Athletic 1 John Brown 2 Kevin Smart 3 Joe Hinnigan 4 Tommy Gore 5 Noel Ward 6 Dave Fretwell 7 Frank Corrigan 8 Jeff Wright 9 Peter Houghton 10 Mickey Moore 11 Ian Purdie 12 Derek Brownbill	Referee : Mr. M. G. PECK (Doncaster) Linesmen : Mr. K. G. Fawcett (Kendal) Red Flag Mr. D. B. Scrimshaw (Cheadle) Yellow Flag	Darlington 1 Martin Burleigh 2 Clive Nattress 3 Jimmy Cochrane 4 Graham Hedley 5 Derek Craig 6 Jimmy Seal 7 Barry Lyons 8 Dennis Wann 9 John Peachey 10 Ron Ferguson 11 Alan Walsh 12 Dave Crosson
	FOR YOUR RECORD Result : Attendance : Scorers :	

TODAY'S REFEREE

PECK, MICHAEL G. (Doncaster). Started refereeing in 1965 and has progressed via the West Lancashire and Central Leagues to the Football League list. Lined the 1975 Scotland v. Northern Ireland Home International, and refereed the first-leg of the Challenge Trophy Semi-final in 1977.

A married man, with two children, he is a schoolmaster. Likes playing cricket and squash, also listening to all kinds of music. Former secretary of the Lancaster-Morecambe Referees Society and a past secretary (1972-76) of the Lancashire Referees Association.

LATICS LINE

by Nick Duxbury



The last game of the season on home soil sees Wigan Athletic with an outside chance of promotion.

Latics must beat Darlington this afternoon and win their remaining three games to have any hope of taking the step up to Division Three at the first attempt.

By hanging onto the coat tails of the leaders, Latics have guaranteed the fans a thrilling climax to the season, despite what some people might say.

For there are those, who have already written off Latics, but even though the odds are stacked against them, Ian McNeill's men could still prove the doubters wrong.

Even if they fail and prove the doubters right, Latics and their fans will still be able to hold their heads high, for no-one can deny it has been a tremendous first League season.

Only the slightly embarrassing 4-1 first round FA Cup replay exit at

Bury can be counted as a real disappointment, but even then Latics could find solace in the fact that they took a Third Division side to two games before bowing out.

Apart from that one blow to the Latics pride, it has been a fairly tale ten months, even taking into account the unnerving settling-in period, this brought six defeats in the first nine League matches.

Those early dark days put Latics to the test, both on the field and the terraces, but the club came through and after experiencing what it's like to lie at the bottom of the Football League, Latics rose to the dizzy heights of the top four.

The swing from re-election to promotion has made Latics well known in soccer circles and there is no doubt where the credit lies . . . Ian McNeill and his players have done wonders and whatever today's result they deserve all the applause you can muster come the final whistle.

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RESULTS 1978-79

HOME MATCHES IN CAPITALS

[illegible]

LANCASHIRE FOOTBALL LEAGUE (DIVISION 1)

Wigan Athletic Reserves

1978

August—	F-A
18—Blackpool 'A' H	2-1
25—Southport Res. H	1-1
September—	
2—Everton 'A' A	2-1
9—Chester 'A' H	1-3
15—Tranmere R. Res. A	0-0
16—	
23—Bradford City Res. H	5-0
30—Liverpool 'A' A	1-2
October—	
7—Rochdale Res. H	2-2
14—Rochdale Res. A	0-1
21—Carlisle Utd. Res. H	2-0
27—Stockport County 'A' A	8-0
November—	
11—Tranmere R. Res. H	2-2
18—Crewe Alex 'A' A	3-3
25—Manchester City 'A' A	2-1
December—	
2—Blackpool 'A' H	1-0
9—Port Vale Res. H	3-1
13—Macclesfield T. Res. H	5-1
16—Chester 'A' A	
26—	
30—Morecambe Res. A	5-0

1979

January—	F-A
1—Oldham Ath. Res. H	1-3
6—Morecambe Res. H	3-1
13—Port Vale Res. A	0-5
20—Manchester City 'A' H	
27—Macclesfield T. Res. A	6-2
February—	
3—Bradford City Res. A	
10—Crewe Alex Res. H	5-0
17—Manchester Utd. 'A' A	2-2
24—Oldham Ath. Res. A	1-4
March—	
3—Carlisle Res. A	1-3
8—Stockport County 'A' H	4-2
17—Bolton Wanderers 'B' A	5-0
24—Bolton Wanderers 'B' H	5-0
31—Wrexham Res. A	2-3
April—	
7—Manchester Utd. 'A' H	2-1
13—Southport Res. A (Fri.)	
15—Wrexham Res. H	3-0
16—	
21—Liverpool 'A' H	0-1
28—	
May—	
5—Everton 'A' H	

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